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THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2013

## Go to bed!

Sleep important to health  
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# INPORT NEWS



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### RENEWABLE ENERGY:

## It blows

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Anger. Defeat. Disappointment.

Just a few of the emotions last week's announcement from Ontario Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli evoked in Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs.

The petite brunette attended the CanSIA Solar Ontario Conference armed with a massive question that she wanted answered.

"So, if I have an existing project in my municipality, nothing you say applies?"

It was a question she said she asked adamantly to the

minister after he shared news that local governments will get a voice in major new wind and solar projects.

Chiarelli's response was that no, the changes would not apply.

The minister announced the province will replace the existing feed-in tariff procurement process with a new system, giving municipalities a say on where turbines go and whether they want them.

But he said contracts already awarded for wind projects can't be changed without risking pricey legal battles.

see WIND | page 2



Wainfleet is embroiled in a conflict over wind turbines.

Reuters



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# upfront

■ **WAINFLEET:** Township to pay legal fees

## Mayor unhappy with wind turbine court costs

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — Wainfleet will have to pay \$74,006 in legal costs to Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. after its two-kilometre wind turbine setback bylaw was ruled invalid in a St. Catharines courtroom in late April.

The costs were awarded to Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. recently. Lawyers for the company originally sought costs of \$111,000 to be paid by the township.

Mayor April Jeffs was disappointed by the decision, but pleased the township doesn't have to pay Wainfleet Wind Energy's full costs.

Wainfleet had been taken to

court after a lawsuit was filed by the law firm of Aird and Berlis LLP in July 2012 on behalf of Wainfleet Wind Energy, which is looking to install a number of wind turbines in the township. The company is owned by the Loeffen family and Tom Rankin, CEO of Rankin Construction, who bought into it in 2012.

The lawsuit was in relation to the bylaw which called for a two-kilometre setback of wind turbines from residences, instead of the 550-metre setback allowed by the province under the Green Energy Act.

Legal costs incurred last year — \$41,764.76 — were paid for out of operating funds.

The township set aside \$50,000



in a reserve at the end of 2012 and put another \$50,000 into the 2013 budget to pay for any other costs. As of March this year, the costs were \$72,603.22.

The costs, factored in with the court costs of \$74,006 will

see the township with a shortfall of \$46,600. The shortfall will be funded by operations if there's a surplus at end of 2013 or by using funds from a reserve.

Jeffs said despite the tur-

bine bylaw being ruled invalid, not illegal, and the awarding of legal costs, she and council stand behind the decision to enact the bylaw in the first place.

She said there are residents in Wainfleet that are absolutely terrified of having the industrial wind turbines pop up around the countryside.

"People still stop me all the time and talk about it."

In addition to Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., Niagara Region Wind Corp. is looking to install turbines in the north end of Wainfleet.

"There are studies out there that say wind turbines are fine ... but there are also studies that show they aren't."

Jeffs said people use

European countries as an example to show turbines don't cause problems, but she said those turbines pale in comparison to ones proposed to be installed in Wainfleet. She said the ones here are much larger.

A majority of residents, she said, are opposed to turbines and worry about health affects and possible property value loss.

Jeffs said she was recently asked by someone in the community how she could sleep at night knowing she was spending taxpayer dollars on the fight against the turbines.

"I said I wouldn't be able to sleep at night if I didn't do all I could for the residents and municipality."

■ **WIND**

## 'There was a big build-up and then a big letdown'

FROM PAGE 1

"We cannot continue to do what was done in Oakville and Mississauga," he said.

The government racked up massive fees slashing two gas plants there.

"I got to hear it straight from the horse's mouth," Jeffs said, feeling empowered in being able to stand up for her community.

While seemingly good news for municipalities facing future projects, for

those currently clashing over turbine installations, including Wainfleet, the news felt much to be desired.

The township has been battling against a planned wind development for some time and when rumours began swirling that an announcement was in the works, Jeffs couldn't help but feel cautiously optimistic.

"It got us all worked up," she admitted, adding talk went back and forth between Wainfleet's aldermen about

the pending news.

"There was a big build-up and then a big letdown."

She's pleased the government is taking steps to give municipalities more of a voice, but said it comes too little too late for her township.

"It shows they're listening, but it doesn't solve the problem."

Jeffs believes the news will not calm rural communities, as she thinks the government intends, but rather "make

people angrier."

"They've just dangled the carrot and pulled it away."

Still, Jeffs is determined to continue the fight in her municipality.

"It's not over 'til it's over." The announcement shows there is room for change, she said.

"It's opened a door — just a little crack for us, but I think there's opportunity in there somewhere."

The only impact Thursday's news will have on the town-

ship is benefit from a property tax hike on wind turbines Chierelli also announced.

"All I can say is it will be significant," the minister said of the hike.

Chierelli said the new process will resemble a request for proposals and require developers to work with local governments to site projects out first. The existing process means sitting happens after approval.

He said there must be a level of engagement and

acceptability to the project for municipalities' tastes.

But he stopped short of handing them the power to say no altogether. He said the province could not meet its energy needs if every municipality refused to accept energy projects.

"It would not be possible ... to have an absolute veto," he said.

And he said new input powers can't be shoehorned into existing projects. "That changes the contract."



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# portraits

■ **HEALTH:** A good night's sleep is as important as eating right



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

If Tribune reporter Maryanne Firth wants to get a good night's sleep, she'll have to keep her dog Vixen out of bed at night. Bridges Community Health Centre social worker Len Dykstra and registered dietitian Maureen Gall say animals can disturb a person's sleep patterns.

## It's important to get your zzz's

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort Staff

PORT COLBORNE — You need to prepare all day to sleep all night.

Len Dykstra says people have to view sleep as important, just as important as eating right.

"I notice a common theme among people in my counselling sessions, people are not able to have a good night's sleep. They're not getting good sleep ... sleep is not seen as a valuable thing these days," says Dykstra, a Bridges Community Health Centre social worker.

His philosophy he shares with Bridges registered dietitian Maureen Gall.

"Sleep is a healthy behaviour, just as important as eating well, just as important as exercise and physical activity," Gall says.

"Adequate sleep is not recognized by many people as a healthy lifestyle. That people don't give it attention is surprising."

So, Gall and Dykstra have come up with the Sleep for Health workshop.

"We talked about how people need to prioritize sleep as important," Gall says. With people being busier when it comes to work and family, they treat sleep as secondary.

"We're distracted from our jobs, but those jobs make us mentally exhausted," says Dykstra.

Gall says with the mind working at night, worrying about the stresses of life, the brain doesn't shut down right away. That activity keeps a person awake longer and unable to get to sleep.

They say sleep disturbance or trouble is very common, and the average person says he or she can't get enough sleep.

Teens, says Dykstra, are one group affected by a lack of proper sleep.

"They're texting and e-mailing until 4 a.m. In the old days you wouldn't call someone after 9 p.m. These days there's no rules, no boundaries," he says.

The glow from computer screens, tablets and even

smartphones, as people check e-mails, Twitter and Facebook, is enough to boost serotonin levels and keep a person awake. Serotonin is produced by the body during the day when it's light out, and when a person is active.

Dykstra says as the evening progress, people should be dimming their lights, including those on computers, tablets and phones, as much as they can to help boost melatonin levels. Melatonin is produced in the body when it gets dark.

Another thing that can disrupt sleep patterns are pets.

Pets at the end of the bed, or beside a person, can keep a person from nodding off or create disturbed sleep pat-

terns when the animal moves around at night.

Watching intense or spooky shows — even the late night news — just before bed is something that can also keep people from getting a good rest.

Drinking too much caffeine late in the day and drinking alcohol are two things to stay away from, the pair say.

"People that drink to sleep are playing a dangerous game. It will knock you out, but will also wake you up," says Dykstra.

While not pretending to be sleep experts, Dykstra says the two have come up with strategies, which they talk about in their workshop, to help a person sleep.

One of those things, he

says, is to have a worry journal. The journal is used by a person to write down what's bothering them, whether it be an issue at work or something at home.

"It's best to write things down early in the evening, rather than have the thoughts dancing and jumping around in your head," says Dykstra, who suggests writing in the journal in some room other than the bedroom.

Both he and Gall say they need seven to eight hours of sleep each night to do their jobs properly during the day.

"It's essential for me," Dykstra says. "I see it as a way to give me the energy I need for the day. If I don't get a good night's sleep, I feel it the next day."

# INPORT NEWS

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■ ourview

## Wynne gets to know the rurals

**T**he rural-urban divide is a fact of life for governments everywhere from New Zealand to British Columbia.

Polls, election results and government decisions all need to be scrutinized under the rural-urban lens.

Nowhere is the divide more evident than at Queen's Park. Few jurisdictions have an urban-centric record that would make more than a patch on Ontario's Liberal cloak.

Evidence is clearest in the approach to power production.

Under the leadership of Dalton McGuinty, the broad, well-researched and highly organized opposition to wind factory developments in rural areas was dismissed as nothing but NIMBYism run amok.

Similar protests to gas plants in Union Oakville and Mississauga resulted in the government dumping hundreds of millions of relocation dollars to smooth the waters and buy votes for Liberal candidates.

That waste was instrumental in ending the premier's political career and shaking the Liberal party to its foundations.

New Premier Kathleen Wynne's government addressed the rural turbine issue this week announcing changes to incentives and an increased planning voice for local municipalities. It will take time to determine if these moves will solve the problems or even quiet rural opposition.

The rural-urban divide of course long predates the current government in Ontario.

In fact it may have been part of pioneer life when the first hewers of wood journeyed miles on foot to the nearest settlement to sell their produce and other goods.

It's not hard to imagine the pseudo-sophisticates of such settlements looking down their noses at the unkempt rural hicks, even while enjoying country-raised beef roasted over a fire fuelled by country-cut maple and apple wood.

The great divide has become more pronounced in part because of the urbanization of the population.

A century ago, there were seven people living in the country for every individual in a city or town. Today more than half the population of the world lives in urban areas.

For the most part they seem to pretty much ignore their rural neighbours. Bridging the divide will take much more than such baby steps. But they are a beginning.

—jmeriam@bmts.com

## POCOMAR trip scuttled



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Approaching thunderstorms kept POCOMAR crews from working on a project for Niagara Region's public health unit last week. But the crew took InPort News reporters Dave Johnson and Maryanne Firth on a quick ride on the Welland Canal where the Canadian Coast Guard's Private Robertson V.C. was docked. The vessel is part of the Marine Security Enforcement Team which sees Coast Guard members paired with RCMP, OPP or local police officers for security patrols on the Great Lakes.

## The running God

REV. GORD ABRAHAM  
Port Colborne Baptist Church

Often the God of the bible is caricatured as a distant, uncaring, mean and spiteful deity.

One of the stories told by Jesus, often titled, the Prodigal son, would be named "the Running Father". It suggests a completely different picture of God who reveals himself in Jesus Christ.

The youngest son of a father wishes for his father to be dead and asks for his future inheritance now. His father, instead of beating him gives in to his wishes. This in itself gives us an inside view of this God. He loves us so much that he gives us the freedom to choose for or against him. He wants no puppets on a string.

This newly liberated and rich rebel heads off for the longest party imaginable. It is written in Luke's Gospel chapter 15 verse 20 that the party, money and friends all run out at the same time, "So he returned home to his

father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him."

Here is another part of the true picture of God as he has revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ. Not angry and vengeful. No condemnation. Only love, compassion, an embrace and kisses. The father had another opportunity to lay a beating on this worthless son and throw this "stinking bum" out on his face. But we see that this is not how God treats us when we turn away from our self-willed rebellion and come back to him in sorrow and trust. He makes us his own even when we have declared him dead.

The image of a wealthy, influential middle-eastern male running to anyone, let alone a filthy rebellious son is unheard of. No respectable man would ever do a thing like that. But Jesus shows that the true and living God loves us so much that he will even humiliate himself just to win back us, the rebels. This is exactly what the cross symbolizes.

The Creator God, humiliating himself by dying on a cross. Sinless yet perceived as nothing more than a common criminal. Not bearing punishment for his sins but for that of other sinners.

The running God comes to us, embraces us, kisses us and calls us into his family through his own son, Jesus. The prophet Isaiah 800 years before this prophesied about us and Jesus, "All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all."

All we have to do is what the rebel son did. He humbled himself and said, "Father I am not worthy to be called your son." Confess your sin and unworthiness and trust the forgiveness producing death of Jesus.

"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God." John 1:12



■ **NICKEL BEACH:** Vale, city need further talks before Frog in a Sock can move forward

# Refinery puts kibosh on beach plan

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Operation of Nickel Beach will remain in the city's hands — for now.

Despite city council having approved an agreement to allow Frog in a Sock Inc., a private enterprise run by Port Colborne native Dallas Walnes, to operate the popular summer facility, plans have hit a rut in the sand.

Vale, which leases the property to the city, has opposed the council-endorsed proposal. The parties, however, are still working together in hopes of coming to a suitable arrangement that will allow for the transformation of Nickel Beach into a true Niagara destination, said Mayor Vance Badawey.

"In fairness to Vale, it may have caught them by surprise," he said of the proposal, citing the many additions included such as volleyball nets, music, fitness classes and a canteen.

The intention, he said, is to sit down with Vale and go

through the proposal to see which amenities can still move forward and how.

Vale is receptive to the idea, he added, and a meeting has been scheduled.

While the city has been "gifted" use of the beach, outlined in an agreement in place since 1922, the municipality does not own the beach, Badawey stressed.

There are, however, desires to make changes to that agreement and both sides seem receptive, he said.

"Is it going to happen overnight? We hope so. Realistically? Probably not ... but I'm pretty optimistic."

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott raised issue with details within the lease agreement. As it indicates the property is not to be sublet, particularly to a for-profit organization, he questioned why that stipulation was not addressed before entertaining Frog in a Sock's proposal.

According to the agreement, funds made through entry fees are to be used for beach maintenance.

"It's been done in the past. We didn't see a lot of difference in this one here," chief administrative officer Robert Heil said of the sublet. The city has previously allowed other organizations, including the local junior B hockey team, to operate the facility.

But that was when Vale was still Inco, Badawey said. The existing lease agreement has not been renewed since 1977 and needs to be reviewed for potential changes, he added.

Heil said all options will be explored and once details have been worked out the proposed route forward will be brought forth to council.

Regardless, beachgoers needn't worry.

"We're pressing ahead to make sure the beach is open and ready to go for the public," said Harry Hakim, Port Colborne's manager of community services.

Plans are on schedule, he added, to have it opened in a similar fashion to previous years, by Saturday.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca



File photo  
A group of St. Catharines residents enjoys the water at Port Colborne's Nickel Beach in this August 2010 file photo.

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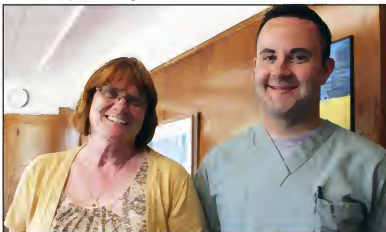
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## ■ HEALTH CARE: Port Colborne hospital staff recognized for dedication

VICTORIA GRAY  
Staff Photo

Practical nurse Melanie Stansfield and RPN Doug Brown are recipients of Niagara Health System awards of excellence for direct care.



## These two nurses are tops

VICTORIA GRAY  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Going above and beyond the call of duty is a Port Colborne nurses trademark.

The hospital's registered practical nurse Doug Brown and nurse practitioner Melanie Stansfield were recently recognized for their dedication to patients and clients Thursday at Niagara Health System's annual Awards of Excellence ceremony held in observation of Ontario Nursing Association's Nursing Week.

More than 98 NHS nurses were nominated for 14 awards.

Brown and Stansfield received awards for excellence in direct care in their respective line of work.

Brown works with people who may stay in the hospital for extended periods of time. He often brings in personal care items to help make patients feel better.

"I try to do more because I don't want people to worry

about the level of care their family members receive," Brown said. "I treat people like they were members of my family."

He said it was an honour to receive the award.

"It was pretty cool," he said. "It was also nice to be recognized."

Stansfield has been a nurse for more than 30 years. She has worked all over Niagara, but loves the commitment and unique services the Port Colborne site provides.

She works in addictions services, helping clients with substance abuse problems get the care and services they need.

She said receiving the award was great, but she's part of a team and every member works just as hard as her.

"My philosophy has always been continuous learning and development," she said. "I've made a lot of changes to help better services in the department."

[victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca](mailto:victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca)

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The deadline for input is July 15, 2013.

For more information or alternative formats, please e-mail [sar.habitat@ontario.ca](mailto:sar.habitat@ontario.ca) or phone 1-800-667-1940.

Renseignements en français: 1 800 667-1940.



■ **GLOBAL AID:** Ten Thousand Villages donation to help family in developing nation

# St. Patrick students buy a farmyard of animals

VICTORIA GRAY  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — To have peace, you need to teach peace. Students from St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School in Port Colborne recently sent that message and others into the city. More than 350 people are wearing those messages around their wrists.

Those messages of peace helped the school buy a farmyard full of animals on Monday morning for a family in Kenya, Palestine or Bangladesh, through the Ten Thousand Villages' Living Gift Program.

They don't know which country will benefit.

Students made and sold the bracelets with peace quotes on them during Catholic Education Week earlier this month.

Grade 7/8 teacher Kim Guthrie said one of the themes for the week was promoting peace and creating a better world through faith.

"We constantly talk about how making small choices affects people,

and we have the opportunity to make a difference through small gestures," she said.

Students only intended to purchase a sheep or goat for a family in need, but were able to raise much more than \$350 and so were able to buy an entire farm full of animals. Student Claire Gittins said, "sometimes people just need a push to get back on their feet."

"We worked hard to help give a family that push because sometimes it doesn't matter how hard you work you still might not have what you need, and it's not fair," she said.

The animals will help provide families with a healthy diet, improve their economic status and much more.

Student Hannah Peyton said helping people from developing countries is important because everyone deserves to live well.

"We're really lucky to have been born here, but they are no different than us," she said.

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @VixeyG



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

St. Patrick students raised enough money to buy a field full of animals for a family in a developing country through Ten Thousand Villages' Living Gift program. Back row from left: Alex Kiaucik; Hannah Peyton; Jessica Traynor; Sidney Carter and Claire Gittins. Front row from left: Emily Meyden; Nikka Balane; Natalie Palma and Courtney Rocha.



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## ■ WAINFLEET COUNCIL BRIEFS

## STREET SIGN NEEDED

A handmade street sign at the corner of Henderson Rd. and Regional Rd. 27 "actually looks pretty good," Ald. Richard Dykstra said at last week's council meeting.

But as good as the sign looks, he said it needs to be replaced with a real one. The sign is not reflective like the rest of the signs in the township. People may not be able to spot the road at night. Township planner Grant Munday said he'd direct public works staff to go out

and replace the sign.

## BRAKE FOR ANIMALS

A wildlife crossing sign won't be going up on Bessey Rd., which runs between Hwy. 3 and Lakeshore Rd., and the speed limit won't be reduced, council has decided.

A resident who referred to an incident in which geese were killed had written in and requested both, said Mayor April Jeffs. Ald. Richard Dykstra said the township shouldn't spend money on a

wildlife crossing sign or lower the speed limit.

"We get numerous requests to lower speed limits and we don't do it," he added.

## INSPECTORS QUALIFIED

Employees of EXP Services Inc. are qualified inspectors when it comes the mandatory onsite sewage system inspection program in the township. Ald. Betty Konec said last week.

"We had an e-mail questioning the

certification of the inspection team going along the lakeshore," Konec said.

The mandatory program will see septic systems along the lakeshore area inspected to determine whether they are working or faulty. The program was put in place after council defeated a proposal to have a water-skin line installed along the length of the lakeshore.

Faulty septic systems have caused water quality issues along the lakeshore and that led to a boil water advisory, which is still in effect.

"Two hundred inspections have been carried out so far and only eight systems need to be replaced at this point," Konec said.

## FIREARMS DISCHARGE BYLAW PASSES

The township's firearms discharge bylaw was passed during its third, and final, reading last week at council, but not before Mayor April Jeffs spoke one last time on it.

Jeffs said when the bylaw came before council two weeks ago she received a phone call from a person on Reels Bay who was opposed to it.

Hunting in a small stretch of Reels Bay is what brought the firearms discharge bylaw before council earlier this year. A resident complained about noise from shotguns being discharged and then raised the issue of safety. The area is a rocky shoreline used by dog walkers, people and horse riders.

Jeffs said the person that phoned asked council to hold off making a final decision until the issue was reviewed further. "They did make some good points about noise ... and they stressed that a lot of people that spoke at the public meeting were not from Wainfleet."

Jeffs told the person to contact each alderman to relay their concerns.

None of the alderman said they were contacted by the person. "I'd say if they were that concerned they would have made the call," said Ald. Ted Hissels. Ald. Richard Dykstra said that even if the public meeting was skewed with non-residents speaking, there was ample time for anyone opposed to come to the microphone and voice their concerns. Jeffs said she just wanted to bring the matter to council's attention.

Council voted in favour of the bylaw.



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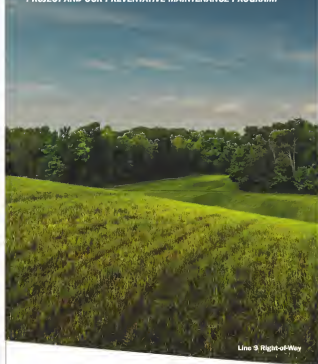
✓ Keep space heaters away from curtains and other flammable materials.

✓ Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside each bedroom, and test batteries monthly.

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■ PORT COLBORNE HOCKEY HALL OF FAME: Ray (Bricky) Leavere honoured for lifetime of volunteering

# 'Uncle Bricky' enhanced many lives

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Ray (Bricky) Leavere is the living, breathing definition of perseverance.

In his 86 years, he's never faced an obstacle he couldn't overcome.

And that determination never went unnoticed. Known to many in the hockey community as "Uncle Bricky," Leavere's name has long been synonymous with the sport in the Lakeside City.

His presence within the city's arena was immortalized recently when he was officially inducted into Port Colborne's Hockey Wall of Fame.

Leavere's love for the sport never wavered, despite never being able to strap on skates of his own. Contracting polio as an infant left him with a severe limp that limited his on-ice activity.

But that never stopped

him from spending what seemed every waking moment at Port Colborne's arenas over the years. When Westside Arena opened its doors in January 1960, Leavere became the trainer for the Port Colborne Sailors, a position he held until the intermediate hockey team disbanded in the late 1970s.

But for decades Leavere was also known as the steady hand who ensured skate blades were sharp as could be, regardless whether players could afford to pay for the service.

"This inductee has volunteered his entire lifetime without fail and has contributed to the overall character of many individuals throughout our community, including myself," Mayor Vance Badaway said of the man who impacted him greatly in his youth.

The normally composed politician choked up as he spoke about the many lives Uncle Bricky has touched



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Longtime community volunteer and former Port Colborne Sailors trainer Ray "Bricky" Leavere was recently inducted into the Port Colborne Hockey Wall of Fame. Pictured from left are former Sailor Tim Robertson, Leavere, former Sailors Mike Green and Wayne Tweedy, and Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway.

over the years.

"Bricky was the one who taught me how to sharpen skates," he said, adding he saw first hand the contributions he made to the hockey community and community at large.

"Bricky became family to many of us and, thus, we all came to realize, it wasn't only at the arena where Bricky gave a great deal of his time. It was also on the baseball field where he spent years umpiring and

volunteering."

When not on the field or at the arena, Leavere somehow found time to also take on bowling, through which he won many trophies and prizes over the years. He also had a successful boxing career in his youth, once claiming the title of bantamweight champion of Ontario.

"His life is a wonderful example of someone striving to do all he could in the face of adversity, and in never allowing his disability to hamper him in any way," Leavere's sister Jacqueline Sewell wrote in a letter to Port Colborne city council, which was read in part at the meeting by Badaway.

Leavere showed those young and old "that we are all capable of doing anything we put our mind to as 'positive thinking' is just another term for faith," Badaway said.

"Our mind does have a power that turns wishes into realities and when the wishes are strong enough,

nothing is impossible."

Badaway, on behalf of the Golden Fock Hockey Club, then presented Leavere with the award for his lifetime of achievements, also thanking his wife Marj in the process for her support.

A plaque with his name and photo will hang in the Vale Health and Wellness Centre.

"I'm really surprised," was Leavere's only response to the honour, seemingly taken aback by the emotions of the moment.

"If it wasn't for the people that helped me, I could never do it."

Along with Leavere's family and friends, a handful of former Port Colborne Sailors, also hit with emotion from the ceremony, were in attendance to watch their longtime trainer accept his honour.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @mfirthTribune



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■ SAY HELLO TO TAMARA COLEMAN-LAWRIE

# New leadership for United Way of South Niagara

SARAH FERGUSON  
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Stepping up to take the position as executive director for the United Way of South Niagara was a no-brainer for Tamara Coleman-Lawrie.

She has worked in the non-profit organization world for the past 12 years, starting with Women's Place of South Niagara.

Coleman-Lawrie said working here opened her eyes and her heart, and she has never looked back.

She comes to the United Way of South Niagara from her position as manager of the Niagara chapter of Autism Ontario, where Coleman-Lawrie oversaw the service,

delivery and support of its programs.

"I've have had the pleasure and joy of working for small shops, and I think I bring a fresh perspective to south Niagara."

Coleman-Lawrie said her with United Way goal is to build relationships in the community, especially ones that "in the past may have gone to the wayside."

The tagline for the United Way is "Change starts here," she said, adding, "I think there is an opportunity for people to look at what they need and improve the community. I hope to get as many people involved (with the United Way) in any shape or form."

In her new position,

Coleman-Lawrie will work with community stakeholders of Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet to lift the organization's 2013 annual campaign off the ground.

The executive director is thrilled to take on her new role.

"For a lack of a better word, I'm totally stoked," she said.

"I have a lot of passion about what I do. I think everyone in life has felt a moment when they were down and out and needed support. I think I can relate to families and individuals who are experiencing this and relay the message back to the people who can help make a difference."

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca  
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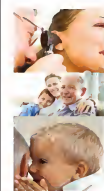
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## ■ PORT COLBORNE COUNCIL BRIEFS

## CULTURE ON RADAR

Creation of a culture plan is on Port Colborne's radar.

A motion to create the plan was brought forth by Ward 2 COUN. Angie Desmarais. The city, she said, has addressed recreation and health and wellness within the city through construction of Vale Health and Wellness Centre and Algoport

## Skatepark.

Now, she added, it's time to put the spotlight on culture in the community.

A 12-person committee will be created in order to tackle the project. The terms of reference for the committee is expected to be presented at the June 10 meeting and a call for applications will soon follow.

## FIREFIGHTER BUY OK'D

Frank Danch doesn't want to hear it.

The Ward 3 councillor found Port Colborne fire department's request for communication and hearing protection equipment totalling more than \$19,000 to be outrageous. The much-needed

equipment, which allows firefighters to communicate with one another and listen to the emergency radio while on board the trucks, is "almost mandatory," chief administrative officer Bob Heil told council. The fire department has enough in its reserves to cover the purchase.

The equipment will benefit firefighters and

prevent future workers compensation claims, Heil said.

"I hear what you're saying, but I don't care," Danch said, feeling the cost was simply too much.

The purchase was ultimately approved by council.

Danch, Ward 1 COUN. Dave Elliott and Ward 2 COUN. Yvon Doucet were opposed to the purchase, while Ward 1 COUN. Bill Steele, Ward 2 COUN. Angie Desmarais, Ward 3 COUN. Bea Kenny and Ward

4 COUN. Barbara Butters and Ron Bodner gave their approval.

## WELCOME TO GASLINE

New signs will greet visitors to Port Colborne's hamlets in the near future.

City council approved new signage to be put up in Sherkston, Gasline and Bethel to identify the hamlets within the municipality. Eight signs will be installed at a cost of \$4,000, which was budgeted for this year.

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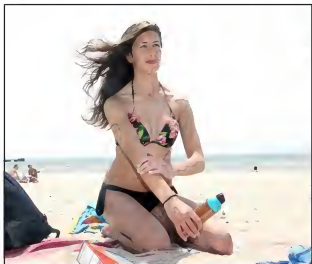
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## ■ SWIMMING



MIKE DIBATTISTA QMI Agency Niagara

Bay Beach in Fort Erie, shown in this June 2012 file photo, is one of the most popular beaches in Niagara.

## Beach buoys thrill health department

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — Niagara's public health department is pretty excited over three buoys being deployed off beaches on lakes Erie and Ontario, says its environmental health director.

The buoys, says Bjorn Christensen, will collect data that will be used to predict where beaches should be closed due to high E. coli levels.

"We're looking forward to see how they work and what they provide us with," says Christensen.

The devices, deployed off Crystal Beach and Long Beach on Lake Erie, and off Lakeside Park Beach in St. Catharines, will measure things such as water temperature, conductivity, wave height and turbidity to land stations. Turbidity is the cloudiness in water caused by sand or other particles stirred up by waves.

Data collected will be entered into a predictive model that Christensen says should be 80% to 85% accurate when it comes to beach closures. Beaches are closed once E. coli levels reach a provincial standard in excess of 100 parts per million.

And it's not only E. coli levels that may see a beach closed to swimmers. They may also be closed due to floating debris, oil, excessive weed growth,

bad odours and general turbidity. Swimming in those waters could cause infections of the ear, eye, nose, throat and skin, as well as cause diarrhea if water is ingested.

With beach season here, Christensen says there may need to be some twinking with the equipment on board the buoys, as it's nothing the health department has ever done before.

"There may be some playing around with it for a bit once the buoys are in the water."

Christensen says the health department consulted with colleagues in the Chicago and Lake Michigan area who have used similar technology to look at the lakes.

"The equipment is quite complex."

With "intense surveillance" of Niagara beaches over the years, Christensen says historical data will be looked at well when the predictive model is used.

"We'll still be doing water testing ... and lab monitoring."

Christensen says the two buoys on Lake Erie were put in the water with the assistance of POOMAR (Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue unit).

"We were looking for people to assist us and they were very generous offering their assistance," he says.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @DaveThe1ribune

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■ **POLITICS:** Mayors' shouting match ends Niagara Region transit discussion

# Badawey accused of calling Sharpe 'jackass'

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI  
QMI Agency Niagara

between south Niagara mayors brought talk of Niagara Region Transit's future to an explosive halt recently.

The region's transportation strategy steering committee was hearing options for a single transit system. But the

meeting broke down into a loud shouting match between Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey, a strong one-transit advocate, and Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe.

The fiery argument over Badawey's proposal — he wanted to hold meetings informing municipalities about transit options — ended when Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn walked out, leaving too few politicians to continue the meeting.

Sharpe, who has been critical of the ongoing Niagara Region Transit pilot project, claimed Badawey muttered an insult at him during the fight.

"He said, 'You're a jackass,' that's what he said," Sharpe alleged.

Badawey responded, "I muttered under my breath, yes," but would not elaborate on what he said.

Augustyn, who sat near Badawey at the committee meeting, said he left because "it was getting out of hand."

He hopes cooler heads prevail.

"There was some comment from one councillor to another," he said. "The one I was sitting next to, I asked if he would apologize and he said no, so I thought, 'Well, the only way to break this up right now is to break quorum.'"

Asked by a reporter if the word "jackass" was among the comments, Augustyn said it was.

Both Badawey and Sharpe denied the dispute was personal.

"In this arena, sometimes it gets a little bit heated. I think we all understand that," Badawey said.

Sharpe said, "You do your best when you're on the ice (to) leave it there and (get) back to business as usual."

But Sharpe still bristled at the tone of the meeting, saying the committee was making progress on transit.

He said Niagara Region

already has the three-year interim deal bus pilot project.

"We're interested in continuing down that road," he said. "There's not going to be someone stepping on the gas and ignoring the speed limit."

The argument sparked as Sharpe said he didn't like the idea of the region "coming into your town and telling you what to think about regional transit."

Badawey countered that his move was "not about trying to drive anything down anyone's throats... it is to sit there and to listen and to learn."

The two then exchanged heated words as committee chair Debbie Zimmerman attempted to restore order.

The region's look at its transit options comes after a council-backed move by Badawey last year to explore a unified bus system.

Ahead of the argument, Lincoln Mayor Bill Hodgson said council must endorse a statement of principles addressing municipalities' concerns before moving forward.

He said it worked when Niagara's school boards amalgamated.

Without the statement, he said, the region should not move forward with a one-transit plan.

Augustyn said he liked that approach. He said in both, the cost of transit would be a concern.

"I think it's going to be difficult to convince some municipalities without transit to pay for it with some of the models that (the region's transit consultant) showed," he said.

Zimmerman praised Hodgson's ideas and decried the bickering.

"We've got to stop throwing people under the bus," the Grimsby councillor said.

Asked if the region could find a consensus on transit, bickering aside, she said, "Of course we can."



Badawey



Sharpe



Augustyn



Hodgson

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## ■ COMMUNITY

## Get cracked up at lobster feast

PORT COLBORNE — Laughter is expected to boil over on Friday, June 14, as comedy and crustaceans collide.

That's when Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce has promised to crack up guests at its 18th annual Lobsters and Laughs event at Sugarloaf Marina.

Diners are served a meal of prime ribs and lobster before being buttered up by comedians David Tsanos and Todd Van Allen.

Tsanos, a Toronto comedian, has toured comedy clubs across Canada

since 1999 and has played to sold-out audiences at the Vancouver International Comedy Festival.

Van Allen hosts the popular weekly podcast *Comedy Above the Pub* in partnership with BittTV, and appears on SiriusXM's *Laugh Attack*, *Anything Goes* and *The Guest Spot*.

Held in the marina pavilion, Lobsters and Laughs kicks off with drinks at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 and the comedy show at 8. Tickets are \$60 each and are available by calling 905-834-9765 or e-mailing office@pcwchamber.com.



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■ **FESTIVALS:** Entertainment lineup announced for both Flavours and Canal Days

# Savour these bands this summer

SARAH FERGUSON  
INPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — This year's concert lineups for the Flavours of Niagara Food, Wine and Musical Festival and for Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival will have visitors swinging, swaying, rocking, jiving and tapping their toes.

"We do have an all-star musical roster this

summer," Mayor Vance Badawey said Wednesday afternoon at the Roseblawn Centre where he unveiled the talent that will be featured this summer during both summer events.

Country duo The Revelays will kick off the Flavours of Niagara festival Saturday, June 29, at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park. Jonesy will rock the stage at the festival on Sunday, June 30.



**We do have an all-star musical roster this summer."**

Mayor Vance Badawey

"Jonesy is a fan favourite featuring five performers with unique personalities

from across the region. This is no ordinary band," the mayor said.

The Steve Burnside Band will kick off the Canada Day portion of the festival. Following the Steve Burnside Band, is L.P.S.

Canal Days, Port Colborne's "signature summer event," will run Friday, Aug. 2, to Monday, Aug. 5. Headlining band Tea

Party with special guests TimeGiant and Bleeker Ridge will open the four-day festival.

April Wine with special guests Downchild Blues Band and Rich and the Poor Boys will perform Aug. 3.

Fiddler Liam McGlosson and Liam's Kitchen Party, and The Tara Dunphy Trio featuring North American Champion tin whistle player and fiddler Tara

Dunphy will hit the stage Aug. 4. Direct from Ireland, the Caroline Keane and Tom Delany duo will perform. The Dole Tinklers will wrap up the concert Sunday afternoon.

Sister Act will take the stage on Aug. 5 performing classic rock hits to favourite top 40s. Closing out the show is The Caverners.

see **FLAVOURS** | page 19



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## ■ FLAVOURS

# Contest to win a Gibson Les Paul guitar

FROM PAGE 18

"Canal Day crowds have been raving about the Caverners for years and who are we to break with tradition," Badaway said.

To celebrate the 35th anniversary of Canal Days, visitors will have a chance to win a Gibson Epiphone

Les Paul guitar, as well as two backstage passes for the festival's Friday and Saturday shows.

"All you have to do is find the Canal Days Facebook page and like it," Badaway said of how to enter the contest to win the guitar.

"This year, we look forward to another great

summer of music," Badaway said.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @sferguson25



SARAH FERGUSON  
Staff Photo

Mayor Vance Badaway announces the musical lineup for the Flavours of Niagara Food, Wine and Music Festival, and for Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival. The guitar is a prize.



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## Coming Events

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